An Lu-shan's defection and the accompanying disorder unleashed other forces. From the northern and western frontiers came raiding barbarians, ever ready to pounce on the fertile and wealthy plains and valleys to the south. The Tibetans especially were persistent, and at one time took Ch'angan (763). In stemming invasions and reducing internal revolts the T'ang summoned non-Chinese peoples to their assistance. It will be recalled that the founder of the dynasty, Li Yuan, had a Turkish mother, and :he vigor of his line may be attributed in part to non-Chinese blood. While the most competent of the imperial generals of the period, Kuo Tzii-i, who more than any other was responsible for the defense and perpetuation of the T'ang, was a Chinese, he was from Shansi and may possibly have had non-Chinese blood in his veins. The next greatest of the T'ang commanders of the time, Li Kuang-pi, was of Khitan stock. Even these were unable to defeat the Tibetans and reduce the rebellions with purely Chinese forces but called to their assistance the Uighurs, had Moslem Arabs in their armies, and brought in foreign troops even from Ferghana. It will be remembered, too, that the farthest extension of the T'ang power westward was under the direction of a general of Korean extraction. All this was quite different from the Han, when the commanders and the conquering armies appear to have been entirely or chiefly Chinese. Even with the support of aliens, the military achievements of the T'ang in its heyday were probably no more remarkable than those of the Han—although the T'ang Empire occupied a somewhat wider area—and in some respects were not so noteworthy.

Did this mean a decline in the vigor of the Chinese race? We

do not know. The Chinese were certainly to increase in numbers and to occupy, as farmers and merchants, more territory, but it may be significant that during somewhat more than half the time that has elapsed from then to now at least part of the territory inhabited by the Chinese has been under foreign control, that during a third or a fourth of it all the Chinese have been subject to foreigners, and that never since the T'ang—except for the brief years of the Republic, when the Empire was maintained (and even that only partially) under the momentum acquired under the Manchus—has China under purely native rule attained to the total area in square miles that it reached under the T'ang. It i?